

COUNTRY

TOPIC Infantry Regiment Utvar No 3492 in Vimperk

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A Prior to 4 June 1951

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 4 September 1951

REFERENCES

25X1A

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE) 1 - Standard Manpower Questionnaire

REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. Prior to 4 June 1951, an infantry regiment with Utvar No 3492, which source referred to as 26th Inf. Regt, was stationed in Vimperk (N 50/Q 46). It was subordinate to a division in Sušice (N 50/Q 23). The regimental headquarters, the headquarters units and the 2d Bn were quartered in the Stražec zapadních hranic Barracks east of Vimperk. The 3d Bn of the regiment was located in a barracks installation in the center of Vimperk. The 1st Bn was stationed in a former school building in Kasperske Hory (N 50/Q 27). (1)
2. Personalities of the regiment included Lieutenant Colonel Ferdinand Okleštek, commanding officer; Major Laly, (fmu), deputy regimental commander; Major Churan, (fmu), assignment not identified; Senior Lieutenant Pesek, (fmu), political officer; Captain Mueller, (fmu), regimental physician; Staff Captain Bocek, (fmu), commanding officer of 2d Bn; and Captain Soukup, (fmu), commanding officer of a heavy machine gun company in Vimperk.
3. The regiment included the headquarters with headquarters company of more than 100 men, a technical company consisting of a signal platoon and an engineer platoon, and a reconnaissance company; the 1st, 2d and 3d Bns; an NCO school which included 2 mortar units, 1 artillery unit and 1 heavy machine gun unit. The organization of the battalions was not known to source. The individual companies averaged 30 to 40 men. (2)
4. The two mortar units of the NCO school were equipped with 4 x 120-mm mortars and 3 x 82-mm mortars; the artillery unit with 6 x 76-mm guns; and the heavy machine gun unit with an undetermined number of model 37 heavy machine guns. Each of the 2d and 3d Bns included an AT artillery unit with 2 x 57-mm guns. The 10th Co of the 2d Bn had 9 x 32-mm mortars and an undetermined number of submachine guns and model 93-N rifles. Each man of the regiment had a German gas mask and a black antigas protective cover. New gas mask canisters of the same type as the old ones were issued in May 1951. Simultaneously, the personnel were issued a small bakelite tube containing a white powder, a first-aid

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packet, and a pair of green goggles like those worn by motorcyclists. (3)

5. A friend of source who superintended the tire storeroom stated that the regiment had 126 motor vehicles of various makes. In the stables of the barracks installation were 30 horses.
6. Basic training was conducted in recruit training companies at Kasperske Hory from 1 to 20 October 1950 and continued in an artillery and mortar unit at the same post until about 20 November 1950. About 30 men with billeting equipment were transferred to a former glass factory in Rejstejn (Unterreichenbach - N 50/Q 27) on 20 November 1950, where they received training together with other recruits who had arrived there as early as 1 October 1950. Source's company was subsequently transferred to Vimperk, while a motor transport unit moved into the glass factory at Rejstejn.
7. A signal-communications course with about 300 men from units in Vimperk, Susice and other posts was started in Susice on 1 December 1950. The course was located in the New Barracks east of the city and was scheduled to last until August 1951. The trainees were organized into a radio operators' battalion and a telephone operators' battalion. Theoretical training was completed by the end of January 1951. Radio operators' training was conducted primarily with former German field pack radio sets; only clear text was transmitted.
8. A course of instruction on chemical warfare agents was started in Vimperk at the end of May 1951. No details on this course were known, however.
9. Political indoctrination was given by the company commanders at a rate of five hours per week. The morale of the troops was low because of poor food, insufficient furlough time, and the knowledge that there were informers among the troops.
10. The commanding officer of source's company stated that the regiment would move to the Boletice (N 49/Q 74) troop training grounds for four weeks of training in June 1951.
11. In May 1951, it was learned that members of the 1930 class had been inducted for service with PG units on 15 April 1951. The draft registrations conducted in the spring of 1951 included men of classes older than those normally due for registration. (4)
12. Source's brother stated that new barracks installations were under construction in Janovice nad Uhlavou (N 50/U 99). There were rumors that one radar station for each installation was located near this town and near Horazdovice (N 50/Q 39).
13. In December 1950, several Soviet officers were observed watching the soldiers training and inspecting the barracks installations in Vimperk. One Soviet officer instructed the signal-communications course in Susice in the spring of 1951. The trainees were told that he was a lieutenant colonel.

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Comments.

(1) Utvar No 3492 was repeatedly confirmed as belonging to the 66th Inf Regt in Vimperk. The 26th Inf Regt or Indep Bn has been identified in Kasperske Hory several times. Since it appears that the deserter was mistaken regarding the numerical designation of the regiment, it is possible that the 66th Inf Regt has been brought up and taken over the military post of Kasperske Hory, with the whereabouts of the 26th Inf Regt remaining undetermined. See [redacted] According to several reports, the 66th Inf Regt is assigned to the 2d Inf Div in Susice. 25X1A

(2) The information supports previous indications to the effect that the 2d Inf Brig has been converted into a motorized infantry division. However, the 66th Inf Regt has not been brought up to full personnel strength to date.

(3) The variety of weapons pertaining to the battalions also indicates that the regiment is still in the process of development.

(4) The information strengthens the previous assumption that, as in Poland, the draft age has been lowered from 22 to 21 years.

1 Annex: 1 Standard Manpower Questionnaire.

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